**Plato Voicethread Script**

The early life of plato

Plato was a very famous Greek philosopher born 428 B.C. and died 348 B.C. at the age of 80. Plato was born to a very wealthy family, he was raised by Ariston (his father) and Perictione (his mother). He also had two older brothers, one half brother, and one sister. “Plato” was a nickname given to him because of his broad forehead, his real name was Aristocles.

Plato’s education

Plato was a student of Socrates, who started teaching him in the ways of philosophy. After Socrates died he then moved on to Egypt, Italy, and many other places to continue his studies in philosophy.He even studied with some students of Pythagoras (another well known philosopher, scientist, and mathematician).

The beginnings of the academy

When he returned to Athens he started his own academy. At the time he was probably forty years of age. He then attempted to teach his students in the way that Socrates taught him. The Academy was open until 529 A.D. then it was closed, thinking it was a threat to Christianity. In his work Plato tended to separate himself from any dialogues he wrote about his past teacher. Plato used these dialogues of his past teacher to teach his students in the ways his past teacher had taught him.

The teachings at the Academy

The Academy was the first European University ever founded. Many things where taught at the academy, but not many that you would find in today’s academy. The subjects taught at the Academy were: astronomy, biology, mathematics, politics, and philosophy. Plato’s way of teaching seems to have differed from most other ways of teaching. This is because Socrates beliefs and teachings differed from most of Greece. Plato chose to stick to Socrates’ way of teaching when he taught his students, even though his teacher was put to death for his beliefs.

What did Plato actually do?

What Plato did with his gift for philosophy was he wrote dialogues. He put words in the mouths of historical people like his teacher Socrates. That’s why it is sometimes difficult to know which writings are Plato’s' thoughts and which are the thoughts of others. So his works are usually divided in three kinds of dialogues: Where Socrates’ thoughts are told, where Socrates is used to tell Plato's thoughts, and the ones where Plato himself talks.

Plato among his peers

Based on what I’ve seen, Plato was pretty akward around people outside of philosophical study. You would have to assume this if he was given a nickname by his peers poking fun about his forehead. But in philosophical research, he seemed to be very comfortable talking to people like the person who taught him, Socrates.

Plato’s death

Plato died while attending a wedding feast in 347 B.C. Plato was never married, but when he died, we can assume, he did not think he was going to be remembered 2357 years later for his philosophical genius.